

# CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTE

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## POAU Chapters Established In Cleveland, Turtle Creek

New units of POAU have been formed in Cleveland, O., and Turtle Creek, Pa. These additions to POAU's growing family are lusty infants, and chapter leaders are working hard to nurture them as possible nuclei of larger, state-wide units of POAU.

The *Cleveland* chapter was organized at a special meeting at which temporary officers were selected and a collection was taken for POAU. A steering committee was set up, and began immediately to plan a drive for the enrollment of new members. Formal application has been made for a POAU charter.

At *Turtle Creek*, some 200 persons from most of the boroughs and communities east of Pittsburgh and from Pittsburgh-proper assembled to hear a rousing and informative address by the Rev. Paul F. Hudson, a Pittsburgh clergyman, and leaders of the group were authorized to undertake the formation of a POAU chapter. Earl Yates and Paul Cornelius are president and secretary, respectively, and the Reverends Logan of the Alpha Lutheran Church, Duane C. Wickard of the First Presbyterian Church and Worthing of the Reformed Church in Harrison City, have participated prominently in the work of the group.

At *St. Paul, Minn.*, a "Protestants United" group has been set up with Dr. Irving A. West, pastor of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, as chairman, and including representatives from the St. Paul Council of Churches, the St. Paul Lutheran Council and the National Association of Evangelicals. The Rev. Alton M. Motter, executive secretary of the St. Paul Council of Churches, is serving as secretary of the group.

Write to POAU for a copy of Arnold Hilmar Lowe's stirring sermon, "Protestants Must Choose."

### POAU'ers Debate Catholics

As we go to press, POAU President Edwin McNeill Poteat and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt are scheduled to debate on March 10 at Yale University against Father John Courtney Murray, professor of theology at Woodstock College, and George N. Shuster, president of Hunter College, on the questions of federal aid to education and the place of religion in the public schools. The debate will be under the auspices of the national affairs committee of Yale University's School of Law.

On previous occasions, Paul Blanshard, author of "American Freedom and Catholic Power," has debated at both Harvard and Yale Universities on the question, Is the Roman Catholic Church fundamentally hostile to American democracy? His opponents were Father George H. Dunne, well-known Jesuit "liberal" (see *Church and State Newsletter*, November, 1949 for story of how he has been censored by his own church) and the Rev. Robert C. Hartnett, editor of the Roman Catholic weekly, *America*. Before any Catholic leaders accepted Blanshard's long-standing challenge to debate the issues in public—for nearly a year (ever since the publication of his book) he had repeatedly offered to meet Catholic spokesmen on the debating platform—they first tried, with remarkable persistence but indifferent success, to have the book suppressed. Failing that, they are now trying to combat the Blanshard thesis by combining means both fair (debate) and foul (suppression).

### Free Discussion of Japan's Population Problem Barred

"Pressure from Catholic Church groups" has been frankly cited by American occupation authorities in Japan as the reason for the denial of a visa to Mrs. Margaret Sanger, who had been invited by a Japanese newspaper and several Japanese civic organizations to deliver a series of lectures on birth control to Japanese audiences.

"In view of pressure from Catholic Church groups," a military government spokesman told newsmen, "it was believed impossible for General MacArthur to allow her to lecture to Japanese audiences without appearing to subscribe to her views." A month earlier, the same pressure groups persuaded General MacArthur to censor a book-length study of Japan's population and natural resources, written by an American authority whom MacArthur himself had invited to Japan.

### Mrs. Sanger Fights Decision

When news of the government's rejection of her visa application was announced, Mrs. Sanger was angered, but undiscouraged. "This is not the first time I was told I could not visit Japan," she said. "In 1921, I was refused permission by the Imperial Japanese government. It is tragic to see that our Occupation authorities, while mouthing democratic principles, are emulating the old Japanese military regime. However, in 1921 the angry protests of the people forced the lifting of the ban. I am confident that something of the same sort will occur in 1950."

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Ilion T. Jones, professor of practical theology at the San Francisco Theological Seminary, is using POAU literature to acquaint divinity students at the seminary with the vital questions of church-state relations which are now before the country.

# LIBERTIES UNION MOVES TO CHECK NUNS' INVASION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Children attending the John Hancock public school in San Francisco have been subjected to a virtual reign of terror by Roman Catholic nuns who entered the classrooms, asked which children were Roman Catholic, and admonished them to attend catechism or not be promoted. This was brought out in a preliminary investigation ordered by Dr. Herbert Clish, superintendent of schools, upon complaint of the mother of Gale Randall, a pupil at the school.

Mrs. Randall, who had first brought the situation to the attention of the school principal, only to be met with an indifferent response, was finally forced to seek the aid of the Northern California Civil Liberties Union, which brought the case directly to Superintendent Clish's office.

## A Frightened Child

"Nine-year old Gale Randall," the Liberties Union reports, "was asked whether she was a Catholic, and, somewhat awed and frightened, answered defensively, 'sort of.' Then the nuns told her to come to church. When the child came home she was very upset and told her mother what had happened at school."

After Mrs. Randall's complaint was brought to the superintendent's office, a notice was sent to the John Hancock school reminding the school office that no visitors are allowed in San Francisco schools without passes. However, the Liberties Union has announced that it will not be satisfied with anything short of a positive prohibition on all religious proselytizing in the public schools. It pointed out that the question would not be altered in the least if the nuns involved in this incident had procured passes before entering the classroom.

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"... there are Roman Catholic leaders who state that our principle and tradition are sound and valid and that Roman Catholics should not and would not change them if they could. Among these is Professor John Courtney Murray of Woodstock College. . . . Many Roman Catholics share his view and support our principle of separation. Do they represent Roman Catholic policy in America? I wish we knew. But we would also have to ask: Is Roman Catholic policy as defined by Americans accepted and supported by Rome? Unless it is, it is almost irrelevant, because the basic policy for all Roman Catholics everywhere is determined by Rome."—from address by Roswell P. Barnes, associate general secretary, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, deliv-

ered at New York State Pastors' convention, January 30, 1950.

## Groups Rally to Barden

"Public funds for public schools only"—as provided in the Barden bill, H.R. 7160—is becoming the slogan of an increasing number of civic organizations and educational groups which are concerned with the democratic process. The American Association of School Administrators and the American Association of University Women both took their stand on the school-aid question in no uncertain terms recently.

The school administrators, meeting in convention at Atlantic City, declared: "We believe the American tradition of separation of church and state should be vigorously and zealously safeguarded. . . . We believe that (sectarian) schools should be financed entirely by their supporters. We therefore oppose all efforts to devote public funds to either the direct or the indirect support of these schools."

The university women adopted a resolution on federal aid which, according to the *AAUW Journal*, places the association on record in support of "the very important educational principles, namely, the separation of church and state, and the use of tax funds for public schools only."

## Belgian Catholics Demand 75 Per Cent State Subsidy

Dr. Oscar Peters, president of the Belgian National Federation of Roman Catholic Schools, complained bitterly at a recent meeting in Brussels that the Belgian government "owes" large sums of money to the Roman Catholic Church.

He based this contention on the fact that a government commission investigating Catholic school subsidies is said to have agreed that the state should contribute 75 per cent of the costs and teachers salaries in Catholic schools. (RNS)

## Archer Speaks in Norfolk

Glenn L. Archer, POAU executive director, spoke on church-state relations before a large audience in Norfolk, Va., recently, on the occasion of the Virginia Portsmouth Baptist Association's one hundred and sixtieth annual meeting. It was a gathering permeated by the spirits of Madison and Jefferson, the great Virginia statesmen who fathered the concept of separation of church and state.

Archer's appearance was facilitated by the splendid cooperation of the Rev. George Tyler Terrell, pastor of the Merimack Park Memorial Baptist Church, who introduced the POAU leader to the audience. The meeting was held in the Central Baptist Church, with the Rev. P. Rowland Wagner as host. An offering was taken for POAU.

Meanwhile, the Suffolk-Franklin Area Chapter of POAU, under the leadership of co-chairman N. B. Habel and W. L. Sturtevant, Boykins ministers, continues to advance POAU's cause in that area of Virginia.

## County Payments To Church Institutions Challenged

County officials at Knoxville, Tenn., have been challenged by Dr. Frederick Curtis Fowler, pastor of the Knoxville Presbyterian Church, to order a legal review of municipal practices with regard to the care and custody of juvenile court wards. Dr. Fowler, who is a member of POAU's National Advisory Council, charged that \$200,000 in public tax money is being used to maintain children in sectarian boarding schools.

Authorities to whom Dr. Fowler brought his complaint tried to pass the buck, but he refused to allow the issue to be evaded. In answer to county commissioners who told him that they act under Juvenile Court orders in child custody matters, Dr. Fowler cited two court decisions which indicate, he said, that the choice of quarters for the care of juveniles is with the commissioners, not the judge, and that the Juvenile Court judge has no power to coerce the commissioners by contempt of court proceedings, as they had asserted.

Dr. Fowler declared that the commissioners were duty-bound to secure an opinion from their legal department and then to demand that Juvenile Court Judge Gustave A. Schramm cease the practice of recommending placement of court wards in sectarian institutions at public expense.

The principle of separation of church and state must be safeguarded by "every one entrusted with tax monies," he said.



# Hierarchy Angered By Catholic Reporter's Story On Taylor

Walter Trohan, chief of the *Chicago Tribune's* Washington bureau, has been called a "liar" by the Rev. Thomas A. Meehan, editor of the Roman Catholic publication, *The New World*, because of a story Trohan wrote on the Presidential mission to the Vatican. In the story, Trohan indicated that Franklin D. Roosevelt's appointment of Myron Taylor as his personal representative to the Vatican was in the nature of a repayment to the late Cardinal Mundelein for political services rendered.

Father Meehan's heated reply was in the form of a letter to the editor, which the *Tribune* published. "... we are compelled to state bluntly that Mr. Walter Trohan lies," Father Meehan declared. In a rejoinder, Trohan pointed out that he himself is a Catholic and a graduate of Notre Dame University, and that he "accompanied Taylor to Europe in 1939 and at Taylor's invitation went with him to the Vatican when the new envoy presented his credentials."

## 'Common Knowledge'

"That Taylor's appointment was in repayment of Roosevelt's debt to Cardinal Mundelein," Trohan continued, "was common knowledge in Taylor's official party, was stated as a fact by members at the legation and consular staffs at Rome, was well-known and commented upon in the White House staff, and among White House intimates, and high-level politicians in Washington."

The heated tone of Father Meehan's denial was, of course, a reflection of the gravity with which the Vatican regards the whole issue. A recent dispatch from Rome to the *New York Times* declared that the Pope considered himself "affronted" by President Truman's acceptance of Myron Taylor's resignation without naming a successor, and further indicated that the Pope might now hold out for "a regular permanent mission" of full ambassadorial rank.

## Senate Approval Required

But it is doubtful that the Vatican's reported "insistence" on a full-fledged mission is sincere. Rather, it seems to be a face-saving gesture. As the *Christian Century* has pointed out, President Truman could, if he chose, "take the Vatican at its word" and submit the whole question to the Senate. "Let the Senate decide whether an embassy is to be maintained at the Vatican," the magazine suggests, "and if it so decides let the appointment of the head of that mission be made in constitutional form 'with the advice and consent of the Senate.' This would rescue the whole issue from the atmosphere of backstairs intrigue which has so far surrounded it and would bring it out into the open. A vote by the Senate to establish such a mission

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## Effort To Prevent Oxnam's Denver Appearance Fails

G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist bishop, of the New York area and a vice-president of POAU, appeared recently as the guest of honor at a Family Welfare Conference anniversary dinner in Denver, despite the "violent opposition" of Roman Catholic leaders. A joint statement issued by several ministers of varying denominations, all members of the Denver Council of Churches, declared:

"The violent opposition of certain leaders of the Roman Catholic Church to the public appearance of Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam... raises some vital issues at a time when the ideas and ideals of democracy are at stake throughout the world. Freedom of speech and opinion has been one of the cornerstones of our American democracy. Any organization, secular or religious, is and must be subject to criticism when it enters the field of politics and matters having to do with public policies. To call criticism an insult comes close to the attempt to put oneself above criticism, and it may be but a short distance from the cry of 'bigot' to the suppression of the critic."

## Champion of Democracy

"As Protestants, we challenge the statement that Bishop Oxnam is anti-Catholic. He has but exercised his American right to criticize the political activities and opinions of authorities of the Roman Catholic Church; but he has publicly insisted that 'we wish precisely the same religious freedom for every Roman Catholic we wish for ourselves.' He has called our attention to the things said and done by leaders of the Roman Catholic Church which he thinks are dangerous to American democracy..."

The signers of the statement were Glenn R. Phillips, resident bishop, Denver area of the Methodist Church; Paul Roberts, dean, St. John's Cathedral; Henry G. Smith, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church; Kelly O'Neill, pastor, Central Christian Church; Arthur L. Miller, pastor, Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church; Harvey H. Potthoff, pastor, Christ Methodist Church and Harold M. Gilmore, executive secretary, Denver Council of Churches.

## Mrs. Roosevelt Opposes Thomas Education Bill

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who sent her own children to an Episcopal school for their early education, has announced publicly at a meeting in New York City that she is opposed to any bill which would appropriate public funds for aid to such schools. She specifically indicated that the Thomas bill, S. 246, which would allow state authorities to aid private schools with federal funds, is objectionable on this ground.

The former First Lady shared the speakers' dais with Congressman Graham A. Barden, sponsor of H.R. 7160, the only aid-to-education bill now before Congress which would appropriate federal funds for public schools only. The meeting was sponsored by the Committee on Federal Aid to Public Education, and was attended by 500 persons. Other speakers included Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, professor emeritus at Teachers College, Columbia University; Congressman Tom Steed, of Oklahoma; the Rev. Edward H. Pruden, pastor, First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.; Leo Pfeffer, assistant director, Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress and Dr. Bryn J. Hovde, president, New School for Social Research.

Last summer, both Mrs. Roosevelt and Rep. Barden were the victims of a major assault by Francis Cardinal Spellman because of their statements upholding the principle of separation of church and state. Alluding to the Cardinal's vituperative attacks, the Congressman promised that he and those agreeing with him would never run for cover when "cruel" and "authoritarian" spokesmen of the Roman Catholic Church attempt to swing "a political or spiritual bludgeon" over the American people.

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A reporter for the *Providence (R.I.) Visitor*, a Roman Catholic newspaper, recently asked Mrs. Roosevelt at a press conference what she thought about "replacing Myron Taylor at the Vatican?" She replied, according to the *Visitor*, that she did not think it was "necessary."

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# ROMAN CHURCH SEEKS WORLD UNITY THROUGH CONQUEST

The Vatican announced early this month that it is picking "specially-prepared priests and laymen" to act as shock troops charged with carrying out its new "Operation Reunion" plan. These select warriors of the faith will be armed with a set of instructions similar to what might be carried on the person of a man who was entering unexplored regions, under some such heading as "What to Do in Case of Snake Bite." The "bite" to which the Catholic shock troops might be exposed—or, at least, so the Vatican fears—would come from non-Catholic churchmen whose doctrine is regarded as "poison" by the Roman Catholic Church.

Amazingly enough, all this war-like preparation is being made for the ostensible purpose of facilitating the achievement of world-wide "church reunion." The official instructions to the shock troops are contained in a document addressed to Catholic bishops from the Supreme Congregation of the Holy Office in Rome (founded in 1592 to combat "heresy"), and signed by Francesco Cardinal Marchetti-Selvaggiani, secretary of the Congregation. "Pope Pius XII is reported to have worked for some time on this important document which is in the form of an instruction to prevent the church from being endangered" in meetings called to promote Christian unity, writes the Associated Press.

## The Mountain Labored

Interpreting the 2,000 words of which the document is comprised requires as much hard labor as the Pope is said to have put into its preparation, but certain points are stated and re-stated until their full import is inescapable. First of all, Roman Catholic priests and laymen must still obtain permission from the Church before attending any "reunion" conferences. No bishop may give such

permission unless a report of the meeting is made to the Holy Office. Catholics must not speak of reunion in a manner suggesting that those now outside of the Roman Catholic Church would bring the church "an essential element that was lacking to her until now." Bishops are to "seek those who seek the truth and the true church"—meaning, of course, the Roman Catholic Church—while removing the faithful from "the dangers that easily result from the 'ecumenical movement.'" The shock troops must insist upon "the primacy of jurisdiction of the Roman pontiff" and the "one true union that will be completed with the return of dissidents to the one true church of Christ."

## Pharisee and Publican

In other words, Catholics may shake hands with non-Catholics—so long as they are wearing rubber gloves; Catholics may hold conference with non-Catholics—so long as they are wearing sterile masks to prevent contamination. The Catholic shock troops are ordered by their headquarters in Rome to adopt the attitude of the Pharisee, as in the

parable related by St. Luke "to some who trusted in themselves as being just and despised others." (Luke, 18):

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and began to pray thus within himself: 'O God, I thank thee that I am not like the rest of men, robbers, dishonest, adulterers, or even like this publican. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I possess.' But the publican, standing afar off, would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me the sinner!'" And St. Luke concludes the parable by saying: "I tell you, this man went back to his home justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

The exalted Roman pope ordered the new directive prepared just before the commencement of the Holy Year, which is dedicated to the "Great Return." Like the somewhat less exalted dictator of the Kremlin, Josef Stalin—who recently told President Truman that he would talk peace with him if Truman came to Moscow—the dictator of the Vatican seeks world unity through conquest.

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"We will not join with a church which has stood virtually silent in the face of the most blasphemous denial of religion in our generation. We Jews will not soon forget the official concordat between Rome and the Nazi regime, between the official spokesman of Catholicism and the most brutal, bestial mass murderers in history."—Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

## Taylor Story

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would be a vote to recognize Vatican City as a nation with the Pope as its monarch. Such a vote would also, of course, raise the whole question of the import of the oaths which Roman Catholic cardinals and lesser ecclesiastics in this country take to the Pope. If they are oaths to a foreign monarch that would, under existing law, seem to cancel their American citizenship or at least to require them to register as agents of an alien government. Perhaps both."

In the meantime, the Catholic hierarchy in America is whipping up a tremendous barrage of letters and telegrams to the White House demanding that the President appoint at least some kind of representative to replace Taylor. Non-Catholics should match this with a similar barrage demanding abandonment of the mission.

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